

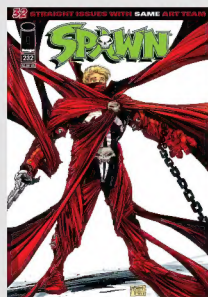
THE ORIGIN OF THE SPAWN COSTUME BEGINS HERE!

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233
DIGITAL
EDITION

SPAWN®



McFARIANE
+fco



Celebrity Savior Part 5

PREVIOUSLY IN SPAWN

In an effort to gain the upper hand, Clown tracks down an agent of Heaven he believes may hold answers to origins of Jim's great power. Unfortunately, the agent's mind has been fractured after her last, violent run-in with Clown, leaving her mental state and memories less than reliable.

Unable to get the information he seeks, Clown offers the agent an ultimatum—his quest for control over Jim and the K7-Leetha will not be deterred.

Meanwhile, Jim's violent awakening continues as he finally begins to understand the depths of the K7's darkness, and the frightening reality of just how little control he actually has.



Jim Downing (Spawn) – A man whose past is shrouded in mystery, and connected intimately to the very fabric of the Spawn mythos, Jim is the world's newest Hellspawn...and so much more. Having spent years in a deep coma, Jim's main drive is piecing together the fragments of the man he was, in an effort to discover the man he truly is.



K7-Leetha – The hell-born symbiote that was once bound to the Al Simmons, is now attached to Jim Downing. As the symbiote begins to slowly exert more influence only time will tell just how dangerous this loyal soldier of Hell truly is.

TODD McFARLANE

WRITER/PLOT

SZYMON KUDRANSKI

ART

FCO PLASCENCIA

COLOR

TOM ORZECOWSKI

LETTERING

JON GOFF

PLOT

TODD McFARLANE

COVER ARTIST

TODD McFARLANE

EDITOR

Managing Editor
JEN CASSIDY

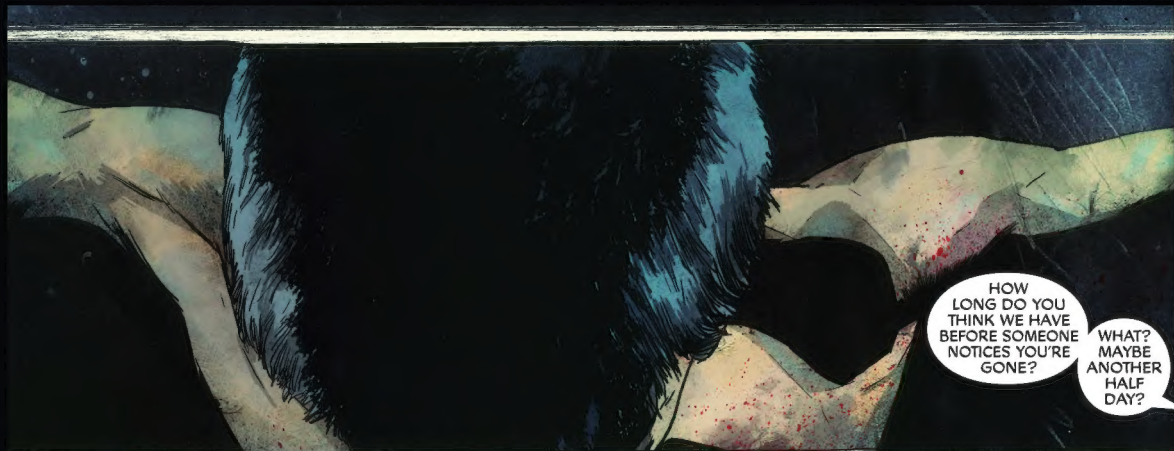
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ERIC STEPHENSON

SPAWN CREATED BY
TODD McFARLANE

image 

TODD McFARLANE
PRODUCTIONS
SPAWN.COM

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HOW
LONG DO YOU
THINK WE HAVE
BEFORE SOMEONE
NOTICES YOU'RE
GONE?

WHAT?
MAYBE
ANOTHER
HALF
DAY?



THAT'S NOT
MUCH TIME. WE NEED
TO FIND IT-- BEFORE IT
SPREADS TO SOME-
ONE ELSE.



SO I'LL
ASK YOU
AGAIN...
**WHERE DID
HE PUT
IT?!**



STOP
THIS...
PLEASE...
JUST
STOP.



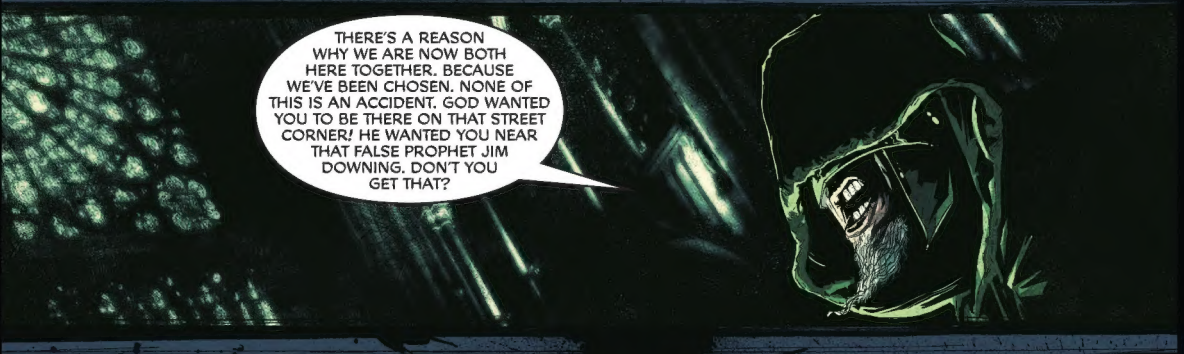
STOP?

WE DON'T
GET TO DECIDE THAT.
NEITHER YOU NOR I HAVE
ANY CONTROL OVER THIS!
I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU-- THIS
IS THE LORD'S WORK! HE'S THE
ONE DOING THIS!! YOU AND I
ARE JUST VESSELS FOR HIS
NEEDS. WHEN ARE YOU
GOING TO ACCEPT
THAT?


YOU'RE...
OUT OF YOUR
MIND.

**IT
DOESN'T
MATTER!**

WHAT'S IMPORTANT
IS WE BOTH REGAIN
OUR **SALVATION** BY
DOING EXACTLY-- AND
WITHOUT QUESTION--
WHAT OUR LORD
ASKS!



THERE'S A REASON
WHY WE ARE NOW BOTH
HERE TOGETHER. BECAUSE
WE'VE BEEN CHOSEN. NONE OF
THIS IS AN ACCIDENT. GOD WANTED
YOU TO BE THERE ON THAT STREET
CORNER! HE WANTED YOU NEAR
THAT FALSE PROPHET JIM
DOWNING. DON'T YOU
GET THAT?

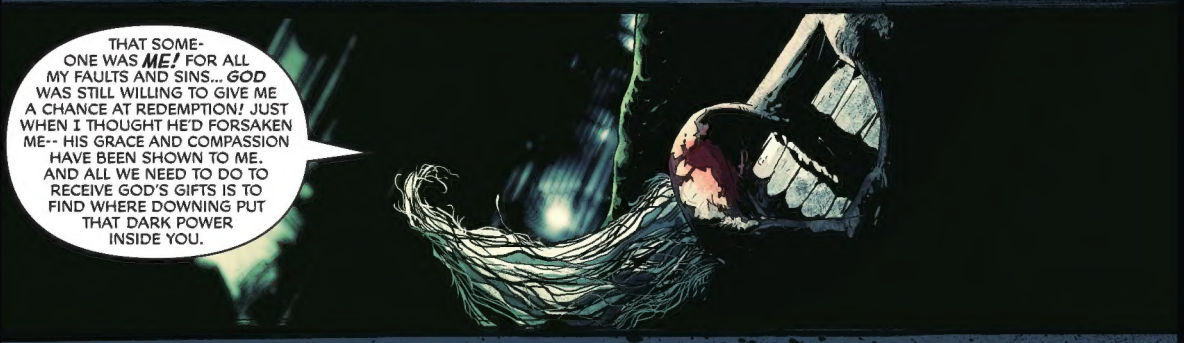


THE LORD
WANTED YOU TO BE
STRUCK BY THAT BUS. HE
WANTED YOUR BODY CRUSHED
AND BLEEDING SO THAT DOWNING
WOULD BE FORCED TO 'HEAL' YOU
WITH HIS POWER!* HE NEEDED
YOU TO BE THE CARRIER OF
THAT DARK POWER UNTIL
SOMEONE COULD BE SENT
TO RETRIEVE IT.


*Issues #203-4 --Todd



PLEASE...
DON'T. NO
MORE.



THAT SOME-
ONE WAS **ME!** FOR ALL
MY FAULTS AND SINS... **GOD**
WAS STILL WILLING TO GIVE ME
A CHANCE AT REDEMPTION! JUST
WHEN I THOUGHT HE'D FORSAKEN
ME-- HIS GRACE AND COMPASSION
HAVE BEEN SHOWN TO ME.
AND ALL WE NEED TO DO TO
RECEIVE GOD'S GIFTS IS TO
FIND WHERE DOWNING PUT
THAT DARK POWER
INSIDE YOU.



SO WHY ARE
YOU RESISTING?
WHY ARE YOU MAKING
THIS SO DIFFICULT
ON US?!



IT'S GOT
TO BE IN THERE
SOMEWHERE!



NOT AGAIN.



GOD DAMN IT-- NOT AGAIN!



WHY DO I KEEP WAKING IN PLACES I DON'T WANT TO BE?!



WHY CAN'T I JUST SLEEP THROUGH THE NIGHT?



IS THAT
ASKING TOO
MUCH? TO HAVE
ONE NIGHT WITH-
OUT BEING **THIS**
SPAWN?!

WITHOUT
HAVING TO DEAL
WITH THIS
MADNESS?!



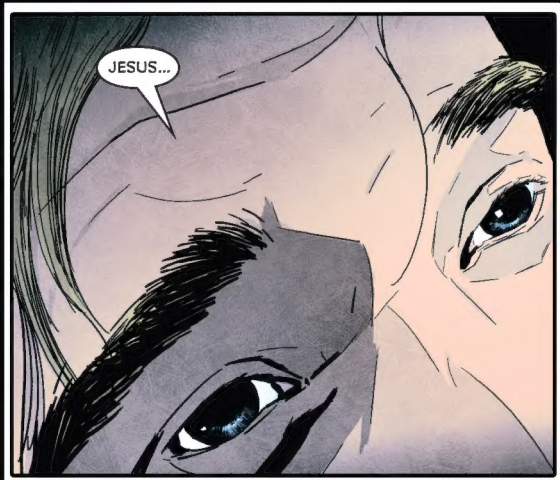
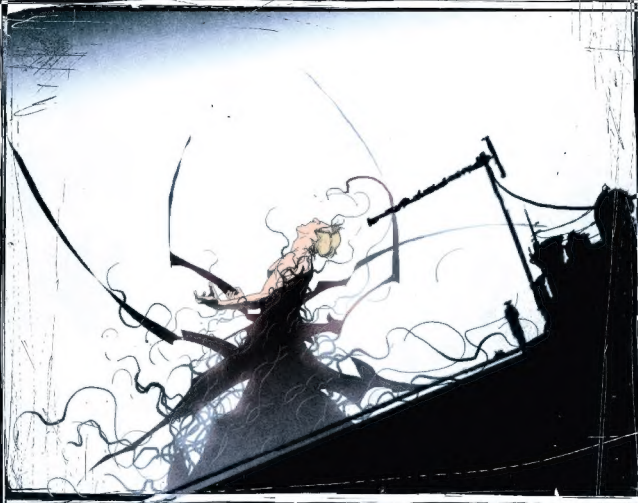
LEAVE ME
ALONE!!

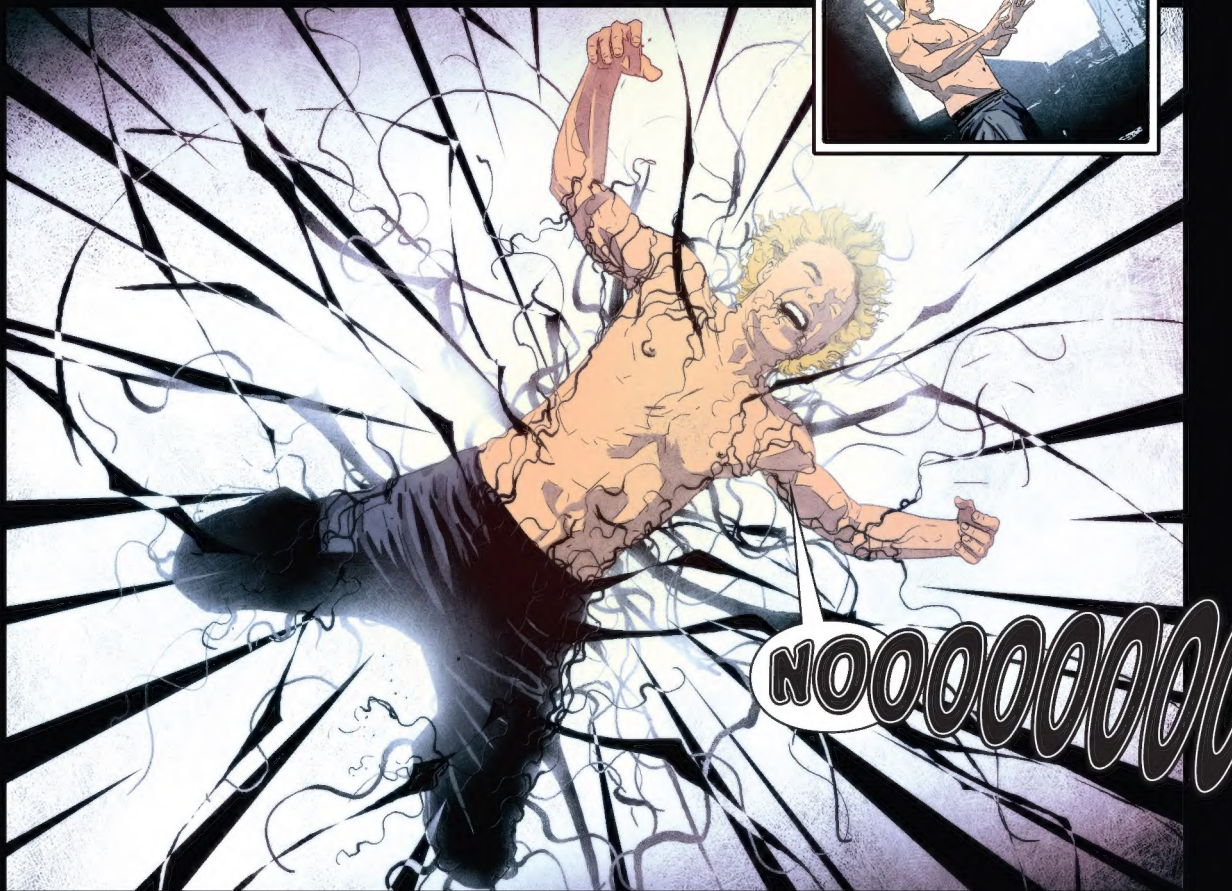
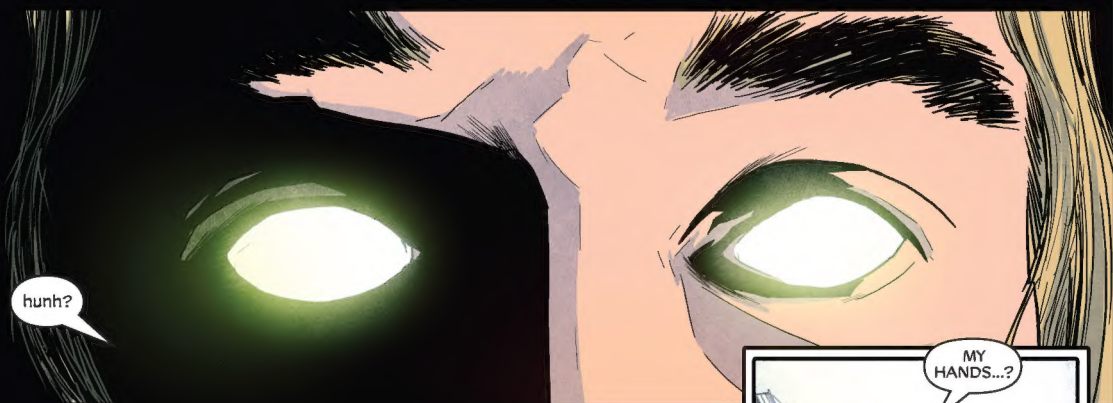
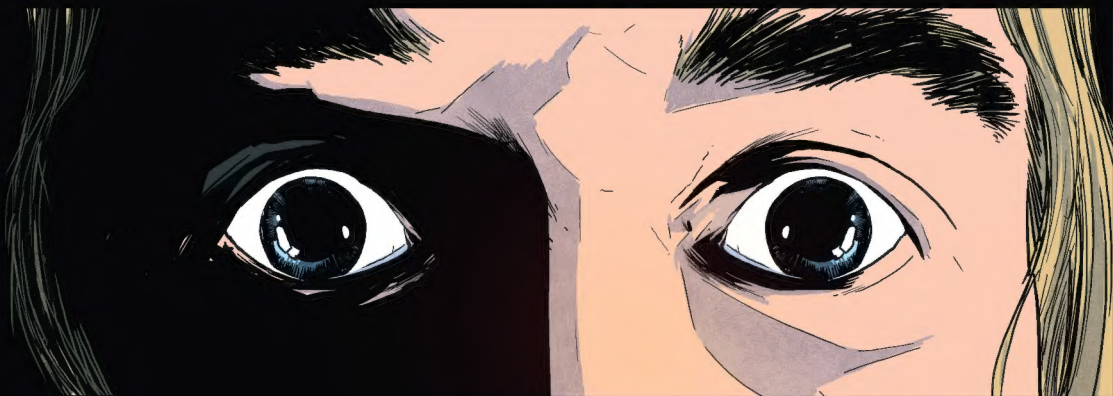


NO.



YES!
I WANT
YOU OFF
ME!







DID YOU
THINK YOU HAD
ANY POSSIBLE
CHANCE...

...TO
HIDE FROM
ME?

LOOK
AROUND. YOU'RE
EXACTLY WHERE I
WANT YOU.

IN THE
DARK.

SHOW
YOURSELF.

I AM.

I'M EVERY-
THING YOU SEE.
YOUR ARROGANCE
IS BLINDING
YOU.

YOU'RE
NOTHING.

AND
IT'S YOU
THAT'S HIDING
NOW. WHAT ARE
YOU SO AFRAID
OF?

ARROGANCE
AND SELF-
CONFIDENCE-- THAT
COMBINATION HAS ALWAYS
GIVEN YOU HUMANS A
FALSE SENSE OF
GRANDEUR.

BUT SADLY,
YOU'VE *MISTAKEN*
PATIENCE FOR FEAR. YOUR
OWN MORTALITY FORCES YOUR
KIND TO RUSH INTO THINGS--
TRYING TO ACCELERATE
GOALS SIMPLY BECAUSE
EACH DAY MAY BE
YOUR LAST.

"BUT IF YOU'RE IMMORTAL... YOU CAN WAIT. THERE IS NO RUSH. THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERS IS WAITING UNTIL THE MOMENT IS PERFECT!"

"AND THOUGH IT TOOK NEARLY A MILLION OF YOUR HUMAN YEARS... I FINALLY HAVE WHAT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR. A HOST-- A MAN THAT NEVER DIED! A TRUE 'LIVING SOUL.'"

"THAT WAS THE FIRST STEP. MORE CRUCIAL WOULD BE ADAPTING TO THAT HOST-- ADAPTING TO YOU! AND I'VE BEEN PATIENTLY ALTERING MY FORM TRYING TO FIND THE PRECISE SHAPE THAT WOULD COMPLETE MY **BONDAGE** OVER YOU!"

"THOUGH THAT TRANSFORMATION CAME WITH AN UNEXPECTED SIDE EFFECT. INSTEAD OF JUST BEING DRAWN TO EVIL-- LIKE IN THE PAST-- I NOW **HUNGERED** FOR IT! CRAVED THE POWER IT GAVE US!"




"SO EVERY NIGHT, WHEN YOU SLEEP--
WHEN OUR BOND IS STRONGEST!
WHEN WE'RE **INVINCIBLE**... THAT'S
WHEN I HUNGER MOST.



"THAT'S WHY YOU'RE TIRED DURING THE DAY.
BECAUSE AT NIGHT, YOU AND I WALK THE
EARTH HUNTING! SEARCHING FOR WHAT WE
NEED MOST... **EVIL!**



"THEN WE **DEVOUR** IT!!"




"EACH DEATH BRINGING US MORE POWER. YOU'VE ACCEPTED YOUR PART QUITE WILLINGLY SO FAR, AND IN TIME YOU'LL ACCEPT ME AS YOUR *MASTER*. ON THAT DAY WE'LL RULE *ALL* OF EXISTENCE!

"HEAVEN, HELL, EARTH, ALL WILL BEND A KNEE TO OUR PRESENCE. THAT'S WHEN YOU'LL BECOME A KING--
A GOD! BECAUSE YOU'RE THE '**KEY**'!

"EVEN THOUGH HELL HAS TAKEN CREDIT FOR MY CREATION FOR EONS-- THEY KNOW IT'S A LIE! THEY ALSO KNOW THE TRUTH TOO.

"THAT I--
THAT ~~SPAWN~~-- WAS
**BORN IN
HEAVEN!**

"YOUR GOD, THE ONE YOU ALL WORSHIP, CREATED ME THE MOMENT HE CREATED THE UNIVERSE, BECAUSE WHEN HE CAST HIS FIRST LIGHT ON THE PLANETS HE'D CREATED... HE ALSO GAVE BIRTH TO SHADOWS! TO DARKNESS! HE THOUGHT HE COULD HARNESS BOTH LIGHT AND DARK AT THE SAME TIME. BUT JESUS MADE SURE THAT WOULD NEVER HAPPEN!"*



"AND WHEN HIS ONLY SON
BETRAYED HIM-- IT WAS THEN GOD
LEARNED THAT THE TRUE NATURE OF
MAN WASN'T HIS LUST OF FLESH, BUT
HIS LUST FOR POWER!"

"YOU, JIM DOWNING,
HAVE BECOME THE
SHINING EXAMPLE OF
THAT!"

"I CAN'T EXIST... WE CAN'T EXIST--
UNLESS YOU'VE ACCEPTED THAT WE
MUST CORRUPT AND DESTROY
EVERYTHING IN OUR PATH!"

"AND SO FAR YOUR
ACTIONS HAVE PROVEN NOT
ONLY THAT YOU'VE
ACCEPTED YOUR FATE-- BUT
YOU ACTUALLY **ENJOY IT!**"

THERE HAVE BEEN TIMES I EVEN LEFT YOU IN COMMAND OF US TO SEE HOW YOU'D REACT. AND EACH TIME-- YOU CHOSE TO **EMBRACE THE DARK!** MY TOUCH HAS BECOME A SECOND SKIN TO YOU. MAKING OUR TRANSFORMATION NEARLY COMPLETE AS WE BEGIN TO FORGE INTO ONE SINGLE BEING.

SOON THERE WILL BE NO JIM DOWNING! NO SYMBIOTE! INSTEAD-- IN ITS PLACE--THERE WILL ONLY BE A **SPAWN!**



AND TONIGHT THE LAST PIECE OF THAT PROCESS HAS BEGUN-- BECAUSE OUR FUSION COULDN'T BE COMPLETED UNTIL YOU'D BEEN MADE AWARE OF WHAT WE'RE ABOUT TO BECOME. YOU NOW HAVE THAT KNOWLEDGE!



THOUGH IT'LL BE BURIED DEEP IN YOUR SUB-CONSCIOUS.

BUT NOW THAT YOU KNOW-- NOW THAT I'VE TOLD YOU-- YOUR TRANSFORMATION IS **IRREVERSIBLE!**

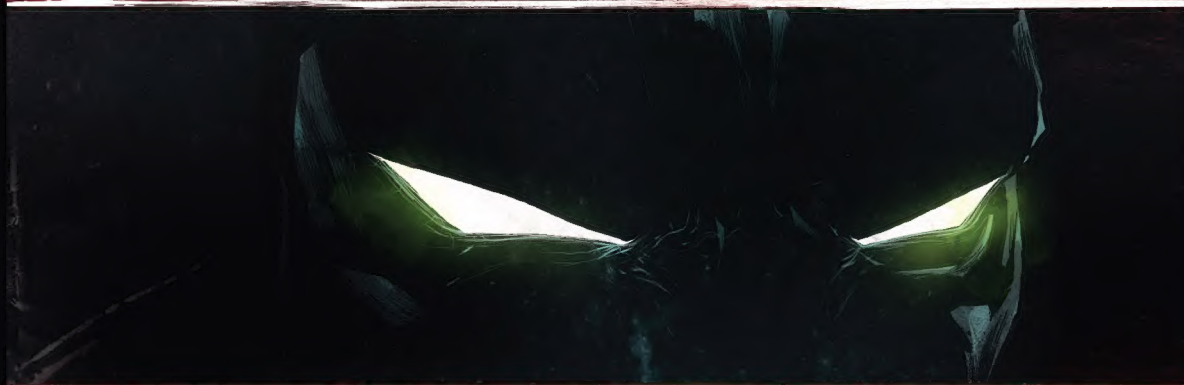




AND
WHAT'S WORSE--
YOU WON'T REMEMBER
ANY OF THIS. BECAUSE
WHEN YOU WAKE UP YOU'RE
GOING TO GO ABOUT YOUR DAY
LIKE NOTHING EVER HAPPENED.
SEE... I CONTROL YOU.
ALL OF YOU. YOUR SOUL.
YOUR BODY AND
YOUR MIND.



THAT'S WHAT'S
BEEN TORTURING
YOU. KNOWING YOU
ONLY EXIST FOR **MY**
NEEDS. AND THERE'S
NOTHING YOU CAN
DO ABOUT ANY
OF IT.



YOU'RE
WRONG...



TO BE CONTINUED





Tyrant
Lizard
King

EMPIRE